



Response to the Tsunami Disaster Update: January 24, 2005

Hand-in-hand with its U.S. Government (USG) counterparts and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, USAID India has worked long and hard over the past month to get immediate relief to those most seriously affected by the tsunami disaster of December 26. Funds have been released and programs are in place that will last through early April. As it monitors the progress of response activities underway, USAID India is assessing longer-term recovery needs.

Committed USG assistance to the regional disaster is about \$103 million (as of January 21); USAID is the primary provider of humanitarian assistance on behalf of the American people. The India Mission boosted its on-the-ground response support to nearly \$3.8 million in the last week. It is providing water and sanitation facilities, temporary shelter, cash-for-work and training projects that will help affected families recover. USAID's NGO partners collaborate closely with state and district authorities and other local organizations to avoid duplication of efforts. Many activities directly support women, youth, children and other vulnerable segments of society. In addition to helping fishing communities, they are addressing the needs of farm laborers, trades people and others affected by the disaster.

As a regional hub for administrative functions and to help out in the crush of relief tasks, USAID India's procurement specialists have secured response grants for over \$30 million in three of the 12 tsunami-affected countries (India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives). This equals one-third of all USG International Disaster Assistance Funds tagged for the disaster.

NEW GRANTS

Newly funded this week are grants valued at about \$1 million; this increases U.S. assistance in India to nearly \$3.8 million. NGO partners based in India will focus on reinvigorating local industries – particularly fishing – generating employment and providing immediate “cash-for-work” income. Specifically:

- \$250,000 to GOAL will conduct cash-for-work efforts that rehabilitate affected villages – repairing damaged properties, thatching roofs, organizing debris, etc. Child care centers will be established to allow mothers to earn income. It expects to reach 3,000 people.
- \$280,000 to Food for the Hungry, through its local partner EFICOR, will conduct “cash-for-work” projects. Work to rehabilitate wells and ponds, and replant trees will be exchanged for income to meet daily needs, or basic assets for trades people. The activity will benefit 3,000 families and 600 trades people.
- About 750 families will benefit from a grant of nearly \$300, 000 to ACTED. The NGO aims to restore livelihoods by training 25 self help groups in microfinance for restarting businesses. Some animal care commodities and sewing materials are part of assistance packages, depending on the group's priorities.
- \$115,000 to Exnora will focus on waste removal and recycling in Nagappattinam (one of the hardest hit spots on the coast). Local women and youth are target employees for the jobs effort. Vocational skills for men and women, and ways to expand access to formal banking for residents are part of the activity.



USAID | **INDIA**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

Ongoing response activities valued at \$2.8 million undertake cash-for-work options for men, women and youth to construct temporary shelters; rehabilitate selected villages; and ensure safe water supplies and adequate sanitation in temporary living quarters. Partners include: World Vision India, Project Concern International/India, CARE India, and Catholic Relief Services (India operations). Funds for immediate relief operations were disbursed to the International Red Cross and the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund just following the event.

USAID continues to pursue potential activities to contribute to a sustained, longer-term recovery effort in the some of the affected areas of South India – perhaps over the next two to three years. We are looking at U.S.-India city-to-city partnerships, provision of credit to families (including women) affected by the disaster, and the ways and means to improve community preparedness in advance of a natural catastrophe.

STAYING INFORMED, AND HOW TO HELP

For more about USAID India efforts, go to www.usaid.gov/in . For region-wide news, and advice on how to contribute to relief efforts, go to www.usaid.gov, and click on "Tsunami Relief."

--Kristen Kelleher, USAID India Communications Officer